THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

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Research Office

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To whom it may concern,

Institutional Letter of Support, Support for the application of the Centre of Excellence (SFF) scheme at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) for the proposed NordNatech Initiative, lead by Professor Nicola Paltrinieri of NTNU.

The University of Queensland (UQ) is pleased to support Professor Nicola Paltrinieri's application for a 2025 Centre of Excellence (SFF) grant.

The University of Queensland (UQ) has a strong and internationally-focused research culture. UQ ranks well within the top 100 universities worldwide, measured through several major independent university rankings: the Academic Ranking of World Universities, Times Higher Education World University Rankings, US News Best Global Universities Rankings, QS World University Rankings, CWTS Leiden Rankings, and Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities. Furthermore, these rankings position UQ well within the top six of all Australian universities, reflecting UQ's position as one of Australia's most comprehensive universities.

The University's research strengths reflect this broad scope of activity. The proposed project is well aligned with UQ's demonstrated strength in climate risk analysis, ecological restoration, and systems-based safety governance. Within these fields, UQ's research was rated as being well above world standard in the Australian Research Council's Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) exercise. Moreover, UQ has demonstrated international impact in the field of climate-linked technological risk management through projects such as the development of risk assessment tools for mining and industrial systems impacted by climate events.

The proposed research aims to establish a world-leading interdisciplinary centre for Natech risk and disaster management. This will be achieved through collaboration across engineering, governance, and climate science domains to address cascading risks and strengthen resilience at hazardous installations.

The award of a Centre of Excellence (SFF) grant to Professor Paltrinieri and the project team will enable the development of a globally connected research program on Natech risk governance, with outcomes that include new methodologies for climate-linked risk framing, enhanced transboundary cooperation, and improved safety standards for hazardous installations. The team will be supported within a vibrant intellectual environment and ideally well positioned to achieve outstanding outcomes over the grant term.

The University of Queensland supports Professor Paltrinieri's application without reservation.

Yours sincerely

Dr Madonna Devaney
Associate Director Research Collaborations and Pre-Award, Research Office